

MAC

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*MAC is the counties' voice
at the State Capitol,
providing legislative
support on key issues
affecting counties.*



www.micounties.org

MAC

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Basic MAC Facts

- Represents 83 counties in Michigan (622 county commissioners)
- Governed by 16-member board, which is advised by 5 committees in developing policy platforms:
 - *Economic Development and Taxation*
 - *Environmental and Regulatory Affairs*
 - *Health and Human Services*
 - *Judiciary and Public Safety*
 - *Transportation*
- Conducts educational and advocacy efforts across Michigan
- Administers the nonprofit Michigan Counties Workers' Compensation fund





County Government 101

- Counties are front-line agencies in providing social and public safety services:
 - Foster care system
 - Public health
 - Circuit courts
 - Sheriff and jail
 - Other constitutional offices (clerk, treasurer, prosecutor, register of deeds)
- Counties collaborate every day with other local units on tax assessment and collection
- Counties receive statutory revenue sharing **ONLY**



Counties Take Care of Roads

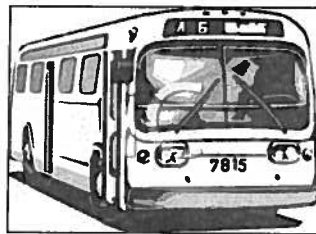
- **MAC supports Proposal 1**
 - New revenue needed for improving our infrastructure
 - Fixes public perception issue and ensures all taxes paid at the pump go to infrastructure improvements
- Road commissions
 - 5 counties do not have a RC
 - Under PA14 of 2012, 3 counties dissolved their RC (Ingham, Calhoun, Jackson)
 - 2 counties dissolved their RC when they switched to a Charter (Wayne, Macomb)
 - PA14 expired at end of 2014





And Other Transportation

- 42 county-owned airports (ranging from Detroit Metro to Iron County Airport)
- 34 county-owned public transit systems
- Counties support Michigan's deep water ports
- Counties support freight and passenger rail projects



Legislative Priorities for 2015

Maintaining Full Funding for County Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing is a statutory obligation on behalf of the state, established in the 1960s when counties gave up local taxing authority.

Counties made an agreement with the state to forgo revenue sharing to help balance the state's budget with the understanding that full funding would return to each county once their reserve accounts were exhausted. This deal was honored in 2005, but not again until fiscal 2015.

MAC will continue to advocate for full county revenue sharing.

Preventing Future Unfunded Mandates

In 2009, the Legislative Commission on Unfunded Mandates determined that more than \$2.5 billion in services that can be measured, and billions more that cannot be measured, are provided by local units of government for free to the state of Michigan through unfunded mandates.

There is little that can be done about past state violations of the Michigan Constitution, however, legislation can, and should, be enacted that would require the Legislature to pay for any new mandates it imposes on counties before compliance would be required.

MAC is leading the charge to enact unfunded mandates legislation.



Legislative Priorities for 2015 (cont.)

Advocating for Justice Reinvestment

Counties fund courts, sheriffs and jails and support creative proposals to address local incarceration and recidivism, as well as prevention programs and services.

As the state looks at ways to decrease prison system costs and improve public safety, emphasis should be placed at the local level on primary prevention, juvenile education, drug education and effective law enforcement, expanded substance abuse and mental health treatment and community corrections.

MAC urges the state to take proactive steps to reduce the probation and parole failure rate before asking counties to take on more offenders at the local level.

Reforming Tax Capture Statutes

MAC is working with the House, Senate and the administration to ensure that counties have a voice in the economic development activities in their region by strengthening their voice in the tax capture and abatement process.

MAC's goals are to allow counties the opportunity to be partners in economic development; to have the ability to decide how much of their taxes are captured, for what purpose and for how long; and to create greater accountability of tax capture districts.



Legislative Priorities for 2015 (cont.)

Closing the Big Box/Dark Store Tax Loophole

Many big box retailers have been appealing their property tax assessments to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by challenging the "true cash value" of their properties.

In the majority of the cases, the valuation methods being put forth equate the value of a vibrant, profitable operating business (Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.) with a closed, dark and abandoned commercial property.

MAC is working closely with legislators to find a fair, equitable and consistent way to value these properties so that each business actually pays its share of property taxes.

Ensuring Consistent and Reliable Transportation Funding

MAC supports a "yes" vote on Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot to increase the sales tax rate to create new investments for Michigan roads, to be distributed via the current PA 51 formula.



MAC Government Team

Tim McGuire, Executive Director

Timothy K. McGuire was chosen as the Executive Director of MAC in 1994. Tim has been the Executive Director of the MAC Service Corporation since its inception in 1984. He served as general counsel to the association from 1982 to 1993. Tim received his B.A. from Auburn University and law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

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Steve Currie, Deputy Director

Steve joined MAC in 2011 as the Deputy Director. Prior to joining MAC, Steve was most recently Operations Manager at Comfort Research in Grand Rapids. He graduated from Hope College with a degree in business administration and also has a master's degree in business administration from Michigan State University.

Issue Areas: Transportation, Veterans, Campaign Finance

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MAC Government Team (cont.)

Deena Bosworth, Director of Governmental Affairs

Deena joined MAC in 2011. Deena previously served as Director of Legislative Relations for Attorney General Mike Cox and as Legislative Director for the Michigan House of Representatives. She has a B.A. in anthropology from Western Michigan University.

Issue Areas: Tax Policy, Economic Development, Environment, Local Government, Drain Code

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Dana Gill, Governmental Affairs Associate

Dana joined MAC in 2013. She has previously served as a Policy Analyst and Appropriations Coordinator in the Michigan House of Representatives for the Democratic Policy Staff. Dana has a bachelor's degree in political science from Wayne State University.

Issue Areas: Health /Human Services, Judiciary, Public Safety

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